

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An anchoring device for joining three boards, which comprises:
- (a) a substantially flat horizontal top element having a top view configuration which includes two sides and has a first predetermined width as measured side to side, said first predetermined width being measured at a maximum width between said two sides, said top element having an imaginary center line;
- (b) at least one substantially vertical support member attached to the underside of said top element along said imaginary center line of said top element and extending downwardly therefrom for a predetermined length, said substantially vertical support member having two

sides and a second predetermined width as measured side to side at its maximum width; and,

(c) a substantially flat horizontal bottom element having a flat bottom view configuration which includes two sides and has a third predetermined width as measured side to side at its maximum width;

wherein said first predetermined width is greater than both said second predetermined width and third predetermined width, and wherein said third predetermined width is greater than said second predetermined width, and said anchoring device is adapted to maintain said top element in a predetermined position during use for joinder of two adjacent boards which have been pre-cut with receiving slots, and to position said bottom

SEARCHED SERIALIZED INDEXED

-37-

element upon a support board which said two adjacent boards rest for attachment of said anchoring device to said support board for anchoring and support of said two adjacent boards.

2. The anchoring device of claim 1 wherein said bottom element has a generally trapezoidal shape with its greatest width at a trapezoidal base.

3. The anchoring device of claim 1 wherein said vertical support member has a plurality of recesses with support columns located therebetween.

4. The anchoring device of claim 1 wherein said device is made of molded plastic material capable

-37-

of having a metal fastener driven through.

5. A decking system which comprises:

I. a plurality of decking boards, each decking board having a top, a bottom, two sides, and two ends, and at least one groove located along one of said sides, said groove adapted to receive an anchoring device; and,

II. an anchoring device which comprises:

(a) a substantially flat horizontal top element having a top view configuration which includes two sides said and has a first predetermined width as measured side to side, said first predetermined width being measured a maximum width between said sides, said top element having an imaginary center line;

(b) at least one substantially vertical

40027325-010302

SEARCHED SERIALIZED INDEXED
SEARCHED SERIALIZED INDEXED

-39-

support member attached to the underside of said top element along said imaginary center line of said top element and extending downwardly therefrom for a predetermined length, said substantially vertical support member having two sides and a second predetermined width as measured side to side at its maximum width; and,

(c) a substantially flat horizontal bottom element having a flat bottom view configuration which includes two sides and has a third predetermined width as measured side to side at its maximum width; wherein said first predetermined width is greater than both said second predetermined width and third predetermined width, and wherein said third predetermined width is greater than said

-39-

second predetermined width, and said anchoring device is adapted to maintain said top element in a predetermined position during use for joinder of two adjacent boards which have been pre-cut with receiving slots, and to position said bottom element upon a support board which said two adjacent boards rest for attachment of said anchoring device to said support board for anchoring and support of said two adjacent boards.

6. The decking system of claim 5 wherein said bottom element has a generally trapezoidal shape with its greatest width at a trapezoidal base.

7. The decking system of claim 5 wherein

1
said vertical support member of said anchoring device has a plurality of recesses with support columns located therebetween.

8. The decking system of claim 5 wherein said device is made of molded plastic material capable of having a metal fastener driven through.

9. The decking system of claim 5 wherein said groove establishes an upper half of said board above said groove and a lower half of said board below said groove, wherein said upper half has a greater width than said lower half.

10. The decking system of claim 5 wherein said plurality of decking boards are made of

materials selected from the group consisting of synthetic polymers, at least partially foamed synthetic polymer, wood, wood composite, and combinations thereof.

11. An anchoring device for joining three boards, which comprises:

(a) a substantially flat horizontal top element having a top view configuration which includes two parallel sides and has a first predetermined width as measured side to side, said top element having an imaginary center line;

(b) at least one substantially vertical support member attached to the underside of said top element along said imaginary center line of said top element and extending downwardly therefrom for a predetermined length, said

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

-43-

substantially vertical support member having two parallel sides and a second predetermined width as measured side to side; and,

(c) a substantially flat horizontal bottom element having a flat bottom view configuration which includes two parallel sides and has a third predetermined width as measured side to side;

wherein said first predetermined width is greater than both said second predetermined width and third predetermined width, and wherein said third predetermined width is greater than said second predetermined width, and said anchoring device is adapted to maintain said top element in a predetermined position during use for joinder of two adjacent boards which have been pre-cut with receiving slots, and to position said bottom

-43-

element upon a support board which said two adjacent boards rest for attachment of said anchoring device to said support board for anchoring and support of said two adjacent boards.

12. The anchoring device of claim 11 wherein said bottom element has a generally trapezoidal shape with its greatest width at a trapezoidal base.

13. The anchoring device of claim 11 wherein said vertical support member has a plurality of recesses with support columns located therebetween.

14. The anchoring device of claim 11 wherein said device is made of molded plastic material capable

of having a metal fastener driven through.

15. A decking system which comprises:

I. a plurality of decking boards, each decking board having a top, a bottom, two sides, and two ends, and at least one groove located along one of said sides, said groove adapted to receive an anchoring device; and,

II. an anchoring device which comprises:

(a) a substantially flat horizontal top element having a top view configuration which includes two parallel sides and has a first predetermined width as measured side to side, said top element having an imaginary center line;

(b) at least one substantially vertical support member attached to the underside of said top element along said imaginary center line of

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

said top element and extending downwardly therefrom for a predetermined length, said substantially vertical support member having two parallel sides and a second predetermined width as measured side to side; and,

(c) a substantially flat horizontal bottom element having a flat bottom view configuration which includes two parallel sides and has a third predetermined width as measured side to side; wherein said first predetermined width is greater than both said second predetermined width and third predetermined width, and wherein said third predetermined width is greater than said second predetermined width, and said anchoring device is adapted to maintain said top element in a predetermined position during use for joinder

1000000000000000

-47-

of two adjacent boards which have been pre-cut with receiving slots, and to position said bottom element upon a support board which said two adjacent boards rest for attachment of said anchoring device to said support board for anchoring and support of said two adjacent boards.

16. The decking system of claim 15 wherein said bottom element has a generally trapezoidal shape with its greatest width at a trapezoidal base.

17. The decking system of claim 15 wherein said vertical support member of said anchoring device has a plurality of recesses with support columns located therebetween.

-47-

18. The decking system of claim 15 wherein
said device is made of molded plastic material
capable of having a metal fastener driven
through.

19. The decking system of claim 15 wherein
said groove establishes an upper half of said
board above said groove and a lower half of said
board below said groove, wherein said upper half
has a greater width than said lower half.

20. The decking system of claim 15 wherein
said plurality of decking boards are made of
materials selected from the group consisting of
synthetic polymers, at least partially foamed
synthetic polymer, wood, wood composite, and
combinations thereof.